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Diana T Fritz 03/20/2007 11:31:50 AM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

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Text:

UNCLASSIFIED

SIPDIS
TELEGRAM

December 17, 2003

To: No Action Addressee
Action: Unknown
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 5342 - UNKNOWN)
TAGS: OIIP, KMDR
Captions: None
Subject: MEDIA REACTION: THE ARREST OF SADDAM
Ref: None

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 05342

SIPDIS
CXABU:
ACTION: PAO
INFO: POL AMB ECON DCM
Laser1:
ACTION: PAO

DISSEMINATION: PAO
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: PAO:HOLSIN-WINDECKER
DRAFTED: PAO:AALKHATIB
CLEARED: PAO:HOWINDECKER

VZCZCADI783
OO RUEHC RUENAAA RUEKJCS RUEHZM RUEHLO RUEHFR
RHRMDAB RUCJACC RUCQSOC
DE RUEHAD #5342/01 3511305
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 171305Z DEC 03
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2743
RUENAAA/SECNAV WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEHZM/GCC COLLECTIVE
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0751
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0779
RHRMDAB/COMUSNAVCENT
RUCJACC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL//CCPA//
RUCQSOC/USCINCSOC MACDILL AFB FL//PA//

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ABU DHABI 005342

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/ARP; NEA/PPD; NEA/RA; INR/R/MR; PA;
INR/NESA; INR/B; IIP/G/NEA-SA
WHITE HOUSE FOR PRESS OFFICE; NSC
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA
USCINCCENT FOR POLAD
LONDON FOR GOLDRICH, PASS TO MOC; PARIS FOR O'FRIEL

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KMDR](#) [TC](#)
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: THE ARREST OF SADDAM

1. SUMMARY: THE ARREST OF SADDAM HUSSEIN DOMINATED COVERAGE IN
UAE PRINT AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA. AN EDITORIAL IN "AL ITTIHAD"

NOTED THAT NOW THERE IS A NEW FREE IRAQ AFTER SADDAM WAS CAPTURED. UAE COLUMNIST ABDULLAH RASHEED MENTIONED IN "AL ITTIHAD" THAT IT IS BETTER THAT SADDAM WAS CAPTURED BY THE AMERICANS NOT THE IRAQIS. UAE COLUMNIST AYSHA AL MARRI NOTED IN "AL ITTIHAD" THAT IT IS GOOD THAT SADDAM DID NOT KILL HIMSELF SO HE WON'T BE COMFORTED BY DEATH. AN EDITORIAL IN "AL KHALEEJ" NOTED THAT NOW AFTER SADDAM HAS BEEN CAPTURED, THE OCCUPATION HAS TO END. END SUMMARY.

12. UNDER THE HEADLINE "OCCUPATION DOES NOT MAKE THE FUTURE," SHARJAH-BASED PAN-ARAB DAILY "AL-KHALEEJ" EDITORIALIZED 12/17:

"... THROUGHOUT HISTORY, THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS NICE OCCUPATION OR FRIENDLY OCCUPATION OR BENEFICIARY OCCUPATION OR OCCUPATION THAT PROVIDES HUMANE SERVICES OR FREE LOTTERY OCCUPATION... IF THE IRAQIS DON'T WORK AS ONE HAND AND ONE HEART WITH THE ARABS AND ALL THE GOOD PEOPLE IN THE WORLD TO PROVIDE A GUIDE FOR ENDING THE OCCUPATION AND HASTENING THE PROCESS OF HANDING OVER IRAQ TO IRAQIS. THEN WE WILL HAVE A SECOND PALESTINE WHILE ARABS ARE SLEEPING AND WEEKS ARE BECOMING MONTHS, MONTHS ARE BECOMING YEARS, AND YEARS ARE BECOMING DECADES."

13. NOTING THAT NOW THERE IS A NEW FREE IRAQ AFTER THE CAPTURE OF SADDAM, ABU DHABI-BASED SEMI-GOVERNMENT "AL ITTIHAD" EDITORIALIZED 12/17:

"IRAQ AFTER SADDAM IS DEFINITELY A NEW IRAQ PROSPERING IN FREEDOM. THE FOUNDATION STONE IN THE NEW ERA SHOULD BE FROM THE INSIDE, FROM THE IRAQI GROUND AND THE IRAQI PEOPLE WHO LIVED THROUGH THE TERROR OF THE PREVIOUS ERA, AND TODAY A NEW FUTURE IS BEING BORN. IRAQIS WITH ALL THEIR PARTIES ARE REQUESTED TO UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ERA THEY ARE LIVING IN AND ITS SENSITIVITY BECAUSE TODAY, AFTER THE DAWN CAME OUT AND THE FALL OF THE TYRANT, MORE THAN AT ANY OTHER TIME, THEY HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY OF CHOOSING THEIR OPTIONS AND DECIDING ON THEM WITHOUT ANY FEAR. THE NEXT STEP FOR IRAQ IN THIS NEW ERA SHOULD COME FROM THEIR BROTHERS, GIVING THEM SUPPORT AND HELP WITHOUT HESITATION."

14. NOTING THAT IT IS BETTER THAT SADDAM DID NOT KILL HIMSELF, UAE COLUMNIST AYSHA AL MARRI WROTE IN "AL ITTIHAD" ON 12/17:

"...GOOD WHAT HE DID, HE COMFORTED US FROM ILLUSIVE HEROISM. GOOD WHAT HE DID, SO HE WILL REMAIN AN IMAGE OF A COWARD TYRANT. WHY THE CRYING ABOUT THE MERCY BULLET THAT HE DID NOT SHOOT INTO HIMSELF, SINCE DEATH IS COMFORT? LET HIM REMAIN ALIVE SO HE WILL BE PROSECUTED IN A CIVILIZED WAY; LET HIM BE A MODEL FOR OTHER ARAB EXECUTIONERS. LET HISTORY FOLD ANOTHER PAGE OF BLOODY HISTORY WRITTEN IN BLOOD AND GUN-POWDER, AND THE IMAGE OF A HUMILIATED OLD MAN, NOT AN IMAGE OF A TYRANT WILL REMAIN IN THE MEMORIES..."

15. MENTIONING THAT IT WAS GOOD LUCK THAT THE AMERICANS CAPTURED SADDAM AND NOT THE IRAQIS, UAE COLUMNIST ABDULLAH RASHEED WROTE IN "AL ITTIHAD" ON 12/17:

". IT IS OUR GOOD LUCK THAT THE AMERICANS CAPTURED THE RAT BECAUSE THEY PROTECTED HIS DIGNITY ALTHOUGH HE DOES NOT HAVE ANY AND THEY PROTECTED HIS HUMANITY ALTHOUGH HE DESTROYED THE HUMANITY OF 26 MILLION IRAQIS. I, PERSONALLY, THANKED GOD THAT HE WAS CAPTURED ALIVE BY THE HANDS OF JUSTICE BECAUSE I WANT TO ENJOY WATCHING HIM HUMILIATED WHEN HE SITS IN THE CHAIR OF PROSECUTION IN FRONT OF THE PROSECUTOR, JUDGE, AND THE LAWYER OF MILLIONS OF VICTIMS WITH HUNDREDS OF TV CAMERAS AROUND HIM. WITH THE WHOLE WORLD FOLLOWING HIS TRIAL BECAUSE OF ALL THE SHAMEFUL CRIMES HE COMMITTED AGAINST IRAQIS."

16. UNDER THE HEADLINE "WHAT IS AFTER SADDAM!" UAE COLUMNIST DR.ABDULKHALEQ ABDULLAH WROTE ON 12/16:

". SADDAM HUSSEIN IS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF A DESTRUCTIVE LEADER. SADDAM HUSSEIN WILL ENTER HISTORY JUST AS HE WANTED AND PLANNED, HE WAS A MANIAC WHEN IT CAME TO HISTORY AND BEING IN THE HISTORY BOOKS THAT WILL RECOGNIZE HIM AS A DESTRUCTIVE, NOT CONSTRUCTIVE LEADER. SADDAM WILL GO DOWN INTO MODERN HISTORY JUST LIKE OTHER TYRANTS SUCH AS HITLER, WHO CAUSED THE SECOND WORLD WAR AND THEN THE DIVISION OF GERMANY TO WEST AND EAST, AND POL POT IN CAMBODIA, WHO CAUSED THE DEATH OF TWO MILLION INNOCENT PEOPLE

WITH NO REASON EXCEPT THAT HE WANTED TO IMPOSE HIS PURIFYING IDEOLOGY. ALL THROUGHOUT HISTORY, IRAQ WAS RULED BY MANY LEADERS FROM DIFFERENT PARTIES, SOME DESTRUCTIVE SOME CONSTRUCTIVE AND THEY LEFT THEIR LEGACIES, POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE, BEHIND. BUT SADDAM WAS THE WORST. THE IRAQI PEOPLE SHOULD BE REALLY HAPPY NOW FOR WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO SADDAM. BUT THEY SHOULD NOW DEAL WITH SADDAM'S LEGACY WITH NO REVENGE, IT IS IMPORTANT TO DEAL WITH THE AFTER SADDAM ERA CALMLY AND SOBERLY SINCE IT IS GOING TO BE A DIFFICULT ERA. WHAT IS REQUESTED FROM THE IRAQIS IS TO WORK TOWARDS UNITY FIRST. THE UNITY OF IRAQ IS THE CENTRAL OPERATION IN THE POST SADDAM PERIOD. THE UNITY OF THE PEOPLE, THE NATION, AND THE DIFFERENT PARTIES AND GROUPS IS THE ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE AND CONSTRUCTING A FREE INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATIC IRAQ."

WAHBA